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## GET YOUR KIDS READING TODAY!

Here is our **TOP TEN LIST** of fun ways to get your kids reading. If you have a suggestion on how to get kids reading we would love to hear it!

10. Tell stories. Tell your child a story. It could be one you already know, or make it up. It could be stories about your family, folk tales, funny stories, or any story you both like. This is a great introduction to the fun of finding out what happens next!
9. Point out words when you travel. Next time you take a trip to the grocery store, see who can find the most unusual word, the funniest word, the longest word, or pick your own fun category of words.
8. Read to your child at least 15 minutes a day (for younger kids) or read together (for older kids). It can be the same book, or different books, as long as you are together in the room. Share what you have read and guess as to what will happen next.
7. Ask your child to read you a bedtime story. To make it even more fun, ask them to **SING** the story instead of just speaking it. They can sing like musicians from rock, pop, jazz, opera, and so much more!
6. Act it out. Select a good book of poems for kids. Read the poetry together and each of you can act out the poem. When you act silly, your kids will act silly and be more inclined to read just so they can see mom, dad, or a grandparent having fun! Perhaps hosting an “after dinner recital” might get the creative juices flowing. Have each member of the family select a poem to read or recite. Try to be as dramatic as possible using gestures and funny voices. Applause is always a good motivator for reading!
5. Writing. Writing helps you become a better reader, and reading helps you become a better writer. Give your child a journal. It doesn’t need to be fancy; a simple spiral bound notebook works great. Have them decorate the cover with stickers or by coloring with markers. Allow them time each day to write what happened to them or write fun stories or poetry. Give them an opportunity to share what they have written (see #6). Adults can get in on the fun too by starting their own journals to share with their kids.
4. Comics or comic books. They may not be “literature” but they can jump start a non-reader into reading for fun. Start with the Sunday comics, or a comic book. Once you’ve got your kids hooked on those, try a graphic novel. Graphic novels are comic books with a literary undertone. Then move on to other chapter books. Have your kids be in on the process of selecting reading material and you will have more success.
3. Scrapbooking. Have your child make a scrapbook. It could be simple (the first day of school) or more involved (summer camp). Along with all the photographs and mementos, be sure to have your child write a brief description or the story behind each one. Then, have family reading time where they can share their creative work.

2. Magazine Scavenger Hunt. Make a list of words, phrases, and items that you might find in a magazine. Give your child a magazine, scissors, glue, and a large piece of paper (or several smaller pieces of paper). Give them twenty minutes (or some other defined time limit) to find as many of the items on the list as possible. This is a great way to get them reading and identifying words. Great for all age levels!
1. Letters. Everyone likes to get letters in the mail. With today's fast paced world of email and text messaging, this is a great way to slow down the pace and keep in touch. Write your child a letter and send it to them in the mail. In the letter you could write a story, tell a joke, talk about future plans, or anything else. Don't forget to ask your child to write back to you. This could be a fun way to communicate. Don't want to spend money on the stamps? Label shoeboxes with family members' names, and set them up somewhere accessible to all. Then, family members can leave letters or fun notes for each other.